



# Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process 2<sup>nd</sup> Boreal Region Seminar

Vilnius, Lithuania

**\*5 to 7 October 2016**

Venue\*\*: Visitors Centre of Protected Areas,  
Antakalnio g. 25,  
LT-10312 Vilnius  
Lithuania

\* Note that, as the Seminar starts at 9:00 on 5 October, Delegates are likely to have to travel on the 4<sup>th</sup> of October to be in good time.

\*\* The venue for the Seminar is the wonderful and highly interactive Visitors Centre of Protected Areas, Vilnius (<http://www.vilnius-tourism.lt/en/what-to-see/recommended/new-national-visitors-centre-of-protected-areas/>). It is located in the city centre of Vilnius, approximately a 30 minute ride by taxi from the Airport: it is convenient to reach by car or bus.

This Seminar is organised as part of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. Launched by the European Commission at the end of 2011, the aim is to improve and strengthen the implementation of Natura 2000 and ensure progress towards key EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets. The process provides the means for Member States and expert stakeholder networks to:

- Work together and collaborate on practical habitat management issues identified as being of common priority and shared importance;
- Take stock of the current conservation status of specific priority habitats in a biogeographical region and determine what needs to be done collectively to improve, maintain or restore the condition of habitats and species of Community interest;;
- Share experience, build knowledge and develop consensus about priority management actions required for particular habitat types in the Boreal region;
- Take specific agreed cooperative actions to restore or maintain favourable conservation status for those habitats that fall within their territory;
- Network and exchange management experience information, to continue to build know-how about the most effective ways to achieve more for habitats and species of Community importance.

The primary purpose of the Natura 2000 Seminars is to help sharpen focus on the strategic targets to be achieved and contribute to meeting the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy objectives. Specifically, the seminar will identify and, where possible, agree future practical management actions that are required to improve favourable conservation status. Through the Process' networking events, as well as the Natura 2000 Communication Platform, the collaboration amongst all stakeholders will be encouraged and enhanced.



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## **Introduction to the 2016 Boreal Seminar**

Hosted by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania, this second Seminar is a milestone event in a continuing process of networking, information sharing and knowledge building, of direct benefit to stakeholders as part of the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process. The Boreal Seminar provides an important opportunity for participants to ensure progress in the Region towards the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets. The programme is designed to bring expert stakeholders together to discuss, identify and (where possible) agree a range of cooperative actions which can be developed in future.

Over three-days, the Boreal Seminar will aim to generate concrete outputs identified by participants, which can be further developed following the Seminar. Although some attention will be given to reviewing progress since the first Boreal Seminar (Finland 2012), the focus is very much forward-looking - this will involve identifying:

- Possible new conservation issues/priorities – new cooperation actions shall be based in particular, on the latest State of Nature Report, including a 'Roadmap' of agreed future (existing or planned) collaborative actions.
- Practical concrete actions and cooperation priorities, which can be developed and taken forward by various actors in the Region.
- Sources of information and experience that capitalise on completed projects, available guidance and potential new proposals to increase synergies and collaboration opportunities.

Reflecting the urgency to demonstrate progress towards achieving the targets of the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy in the short to medium term, the Seminar also provides an opportunity to consider new methods which can help to identify priorities for action. This includes the idea of addressing the so-called 'low hanging fruit' – benefitting from the latest Article 17 reports, this involves identifying those species and/ or habitats for which measurable improvements of conservation status could be reached by means of some measures which are straight-forward to implement and achievable in a short term. Therefore, this Seminar will also enable participants to consider whether or not, and if so how, the 'low hanging fruit' approach can open new opportunities for reaching favourable conservation status.

Seminar participants should come prepared to share their expertise, information and knowledge about the Natura 2000 habitats of which they have experience, especially in the interactive Group Sessions.

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Boreal Natura 2000 Seminar – programme

### DAY 0: Tuesday, 4 October 2016

- Arrival of participants

*(Note that in the late afternoon/ early evening of 4 October, there will be a final brief preparatory meeting for Habitat Group Chairs, Facilitators and other key actors. The meeting will take place in the same venue as the Seminar, the Visitors Centre of Protected Areas, Vilnius. Exact time TBC)*

### DAY 1: Wednesday, 5 October 2016

**NOTE THAT ALL TIMINGS WITHIN THE PROGRAMME ARE INDICATIVE ONLY AT THIS STAGE.**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description &amp; objectives</b>
08.00 to 09.00		Registration of participants
09.00 to 10.00	<p><b>Welcome &amp; introductions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Vidmantas Bezaras, Director, Protected Areas and Landscape department, Lithuanian Ministry of Environment</li> <li>• Mr Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director Natural Capital, DG Environment, European Commission</li> </ul>	<p>Welcomes from the hosts &amp; Ministry representatives and explaining the strategic context, importance and purpose of the Natura 2000 Seminar.</p> <p><b>Target outcome:</b> Clear understanding amongst participants about expectations from the Seminar, in its context as a continuing process.</p>
	<p><b>The Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process in its strategic context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr François Kremer, Policy Coordinator Natura 2000, DG Environment, European Commission</li> </ul>	<p>To grow understanding about the EU 2020 Biodiversity Strategy targets to be reached and how the Natura 2000 Biogeographical Process can help.</p> <p>Present the seminar and its context, along with the approach and methods to be used</p>
	<p><b>Overview of the Seminar Programme</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Neil McIntosh, ECNC</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>Introduction to the site visits</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms Rūta Baškytė, Deputy Director, Lithuanian State Protected Areas Service</li> </ul>	<p>The site visits provide participants with an opportunity to see 'on the ground' the threats and issues, management practices and management planning approaches being applied in different Natura 2000 sites. Experts and guides will provide overviews of the current status and condition of visited habitats and related species, describe conservation objectives and measure and explain the features and management regimes. However, this is also an opportunity for participants to share experiences about related issues and management approaches in their countries.</p>
10.00 to 10.30	<b>Coffee break</b>	
10.30 to 18.30 (approx.)	<p><b>Site visits</b> (details &amp; timing TBC)</p> <p>Departure from the Seminar venue by coaches.</p>	<p><b>PLEASE BRING WATER, SUITABLE OUTDOOR CLOTHING, INCLUDING FOOTWARE, CAMERAS AND BINOCULARS etc.</b></p> <p>During the site visits, lunches will be provided courtesy of the Regional Park Authorities.</p>
	<p><b>1. Forest &amp; Grassland Habitats</b></p>	<p><b>Aukstadvaris Regional Park</b> to see and discuss forest and grassland habitats conservation issues, including restoration options. (Onward journey time approx. 1 hour.)</p> <p>During this site visit Lithuanian representatives will give short overview of large carnivores management in the country, invite questions and possible discussion.</p>
	<p><b>2. Freshwater &amp; Wetlands Habitats</b></p>	<p><b>Labanoras Regional Park</b> to see and discuss freshwater habitats, related species conservation issues and wetland restoration examples. (Onward journey time approx 1 hour 20 mins.)</p>

19:00 to 22:00	<p><b>Knowledge Market</b></p> <p>The Knowledge Market will be officially opened by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Albertas Stanislovaitis, Director, Lithuanian State Protected Areas Service</li> <li>• Mr Humberto Delgado Rosa, Director Natural Capital, DG Environment, European Commission</li> </ul> <p>Following the official opening, a buffet and drinks reception will be served. This is generously offered by the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania.</p> <p>Between 20:00 and 21:00 HRS, simultaneously with the knowledge market, there will be an informal Round Table discussion on opportunities for developing regional cooperation initiatives on large carnivore management.</p>	<p><i>This interactive networking session is designed to stimulate discussion between Seminar participants, share and gather information, and to provide useful inputs for further projects, collaborations and co-operations.</i></p> <p><i>Recognising the important contributions and new opportunities from the LIFE Programme, the Knowledge Market will include completed or ongoing LIFE Projects in the Boreal Region, as well as LIFE Programme information.</i></p> <p><i>Participants are invited in advance to provide information material about (planned, ongoing or concluded) relevant Natura 2000 projects or related work. This may (but need not) be a poster and information folder/flyer.</i></p> <p><i>This is an informal information gathering opportunity – there are no presentations in plenary. Anyone attending the Seminar and interested to have space at the Knowledge Market should indicate this on the registration form.</i></p>
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## DAY 2: Thursday, 6 October 2016

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description/ Session objective</b>
09.00 to 09.30	<p><b>Setting management of Natura 2000 in a Boreal Biogeographic context</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr Algirdas Klimavičius, Head of unit, Protected Areas Strategy Division , Lithuanian Ministry of Environment</li> <li>• Mr Mora Aronsson, SLU representing ETC-BD</li> </ul>	<p><i>An introduction to country-wide habitats in Lithuania, mapping recently completed projects: insights about national Natura 2000 implementation tactics.</i></p> <p><i>An overview of Boreal habitats groups and their conservation status (as per the latest Article 17) reports and an introduction to the Low Hanging Fruit approach.</i></p>
09.30 to 10.30	<p><b>Four presentations to focus on themes of current interest</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>“Developing the Boreal Roadmap”</b> Mr Jussi Päivinen, Director of Development Projects, Metsähallitus Parks &amp; Wildlife Finland</li> <li>• <b>“Regional approaches to integrated habitat and species management”</b> Mr Kęstutis Navickas, leader of LIFE project "VivaGrass", NGO Baltic Environmental Forum</li> <li>• <b>“Restoration prioritization for Finnish Natura 2000 areas using the Zonation analysis”</b> Dr Santtu Kareksela, Metsähallitus Parks &amp; Wildlife Finland</li> <li>• <b>“Stakeholder engagement &amp; outreach”</b> Ms Alice Budniok</li> </ul>	<p><i>Includes outcomes from the most recent events in the Boreal Region and specific themes – developing the Boreal ‘Roadmap’; approaches to restoration; opportunities to link habitat management with species management; example of cross-border cooperation and how it works.</i></p>
10.30 to 11.00	<b>Coffee break</b>	

11.00 to 13.00	<b>Thematic working groups</b>	<i>Four Thematic Working Groups will work in parallel to identify common issues and potential practical solutions – topics for discussion include:</i>
	<b>1. Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000</b> <i>Chair: Mr. Hans van Gossum</i>	<i>Theme includes integrated management planning linked to a multiple benefits agenda – for example, flood mitigation; coastal zone management; forestry management; locally-led and results-based agri-environmental schemes.</i>
	<b>2. Approaches to setting restoration priorities</b>  <i>Chair: Dr Santtu Kareksela</i>	<i>Theme includes approaches to setting restoration priorities; considerations of scale and scope for cooperation.</i>
	<b>3. Communication and stakeholder engagement</b>  <i>Chair: Ms. Alice Budniok</i>	<i>Theme includes landscape scale approaches to implementing Natura 2000 and innovative approaches to initiating and continuing communication about Natura 2000; effective solutions for dealing with conflict</i>
	<b>4. Setting conservation objectives</b>  <i>Chair: Mr. Mora Aronsson</i>	<i>Theme includes identification of “low-hanging fruit”; setting conservation objectives at different scales; dealing with potentially conflicting conservation priorities; experience with Favourable Reference Values – at which levels can these usefully be set?</i>
13.00 to 14.15		<b>Lunch</b>
14.15 to 15.45	<b>Habitat working groups- session 1</b>	<i>Four Habitat Working Groups will work in parallel to focus on issues of particular relevance to their group</i>
	<b>1. Freshwater</b> <i>Chair: Mr Andris Urtans, Latvia</i>	<i>Aim is to identify future management issues and common priorities, particularly ones common to Boreal region.</i>  <i>NOTE: Case study examples will be welcome from identified experts to provide an overview of each habitat group at national levels. This can include and be based on specific Natura 2000 sites, but speakers will also be invited to comment on the status of the habitats according to their experience at national/ transnational levels.</i>
	<b>2. Wetland</b> <i>Chair: Mr Agu Leivits, Estonia</i>	
	<b>3. Forest</b> <i>Chair: Mr Kimmo Syrjänen, Finland</i>	
	<b>4. Grassland</b> <i>Chair: Prof. Petras Kurlavičius, Lithuania</i>	
15.45 to 16.15		<b>Coffee break</b>
16.15 to 18.00	<b>Habitat working groups- session 2</b>	<i>Four Habitat Working Groups continue to work in parallel</i>
	<b>1. Freshwater</b> <i>Chair: Mr Andris Urtans, Latvia</i>	<i>Explore practical solutions for issues identified; focus on scope for collaboration and co-operation</i>
	<b>2. Wetland</b> <i>Chair: Mr Agu Leivits, Estonia</i>	
	<b>3. Forest</b> <i>Chair: Mr Kimmo Syrjänen, Finland</i>	
	<b>4. Grassland</b> <i>Chair: Prof. Petras Kurlavičius, Lithuania</i>	
19.30	<b>Evening meal ...</b>	<p><b>All Boreal Seminar participants are cordially invited to join us in:</b></p> <p><b>The Old Green House</b></p> <p><b>L. Stuokos-Gucevičiaus gatvė 5, Old Town, Vilnius</b></p> <p>You can find a map via this link: <a href="http://www.vilnius-guide.com/restaurants/old-green-house">The Old Green House</a></p> <p>And more information on: <a href="http://www.vilnius-guide.com/restaurants/old-green-house/">http://www.vilnius-guide.com/restaurants/old-green-house/</a></p>

**DAY 3: Friday, 7 October 2016**

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description/ Session objective</b>
08.00 to 09.00	<b>Finalise presentations</b>	
09.00 to 09.10	<b>Recap on day 2 and introduction to day 3</b>	
9.10 to 9.30	<b>The LIFE Programme</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ms Sonja Jaari, NEEMO EEIG</b></li> </ul>	<i>Opportunities available through the LIFE Programme to support implementation of activities identified by Boreal Seminar participants.</i>
09.30 to 11.00	<b>Thematic Working Groups feedback &amp; discussion</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Integrated management approaches to Natura 2000</i></li> <li><i>Approaches to setting restoration priorities</i></li> <li><i>Communication &amp; stakeholder engagement</i></li> <li><i>Setting conservation priorities</i></li> </ol> <b>Habitat Working Groups feedback &amp; discussion</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Freshwater</i></li> <li><i>Wetland</i></li> <li><i>Forest</i></li> <li><i>Grassland</i></li> </ol> <b>Following the groups' feedback, there will be time for questions and plenary discussion.</b>	<i>The main aim of this session is to report each Thematic &amp; Habitat Working Group's discussions and, where possible, confirm cooperation actions identified for implementation in future.</i>  <i>The feedback will focus on the key points and the outcomes achieved and agreed by each groups' participants during Day 2.</i>
11.00 to 11.30		<b>Coffee break</b>
11.30 to 12.30	<b>Boreal seminar closing session</b> <b>Following a plenary discussion, the floor will be given to</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Lithuanian host's representative</b></li> <li>Mr François Kremer, Policy Coordinator Natura 2000, DG Environment, European Commission</li> </ul> <b>Note of thanks</b>	<i>Reflecting on the feedback and earlier discussion, this final session aims to summarise outcomes, in particular noting specific cooperation actions identified on agreed common priorities.</i>